

Project

Diocese of Natal : Upgrading of Cathedral Parking Area

Location

Cathedral of the Holy Nativity parking area
169 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg

Client

Diocese of Natal

Project Manager

G. Baker

Project Value R 400,000

Date Completed March 2010

Brief Description

Partners in Development were appointed by the Diocese of Natal to undertake the design and construction management for the upgrade of their Cathedral Centre parking area. The parking area, a combination of an aging asphalt surface, concrete grass blocks and assorted unsurfaced areas had no functional drainage system in place.

Instead of opting for a conventional brick paved or asphalt solution, PID designed a system combining both asphalt and a section of permeable concrete paving with a 300 mm underdrainage layer. This design reduces stormwater runoff peaks and improves stormwater quality.

Although this is a small project it is significant in that it is the first example of a permeable pavement with underdrainage which has been constructed in KwaZulu-Natal, and at the time of construction was one of only three in South Africa (the other two being one at the University of the Witwatersrand and one at the Grand Parade in Cape Town). Permeable paving is one of a range of design options for what is known as Water Sensitive Urban Design, or Sustainable Urban Drainage.

PID Director David Still serves on the Water Research Commission's Reference Group for its research project *Alternative Technology for Stormwater Management*, which is being conducted by the University of Cape Town.

PID REF: 513



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